

The Mysterious Power of Love



by Sister Louise HÉLIE

Love is a power that can uplift souls all the way to God. Marie-Paule experienced this in many ways. However, before reaching the beatific heights of Love, it is necessary to accept to pass through the crucible of suffering, a suffering that affects all of us at one point or another.

Numerous and varied sufferings have marked our foundress' life. She always accepted them in faith and love, being able to look beyond the pain and see the divine hand holding them out to her, knowing too that God's grace would never be lacking.

ILLNESS

Among all her sufferings, illness was an important part of them. From the very first pages of *Life of Love*, we can see in fact that serious and very painful illnesses lacerated Marie-Paule's being through and through.

A page of *Life of Love*, written in 1967, briefly sums up the situation:

"For more than thirty years there has not been a single day without its sufferings – physical, moral or other kinds. If there were signs of improvement, it was only so that I might experience more fully the pangs of another illness never diagnosed by the doctors. I have spent my life helping those who suffer. And there is not one member, not one organ, of my body which has not known the worst pain. And in such a condition I would go to help those who called upon me, smiling in order not to weep, singing so that I would not cry out from the pain. Only God knows of this. I have not, in this narrative, written everything." (*Life of Love*, vol. II, p. 528)

We can in fact ask ourselves: "How can a human being survive so much suffering and so many illnesses?" The answer is simple: a powerful force had to sustain it. As we read through *Life of Love*, we discover the different sources of comfort from which Marie-Paule drew on a regular basis.

PRAYER

On several occasions, *Life of Love* informs us of the program of prayers Marie-Paule imposed upon herself every day. A complete chapter in volume VIII, entitled "The Power of Prayer" deals with the subject. In it she mentioned a very busy day during which, despite the Lord's urgings that she say her prayers, she carried on with her work. It was only towards the

end of the afternoon, totally exhausted and unable to continue, that she finally decided to follow up on the repeated appeals made earlier. She recounted:

"I begin my prayers, though it seems to me it would be more normal to omit them considering the state I am in.... And the most amazing thing happens! The more I pray, the better I feel, so much so that, after having said all my prayers, I get up feeling completely rested." (*Id.*, vol. VIII, p. 114)

Always in reference to the prayers which she made it a point to say, she would write some pages later: *"They are my strength."* (*Id.*, p. 190)

THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist has always been the center of Marie-Paule's life. Inasmuch as this was possible for her, she never missed participating in this divine banquet. Numerous excerpts from *Life of Love* bear witness to this.

"I get up to go to church, assist at Mass and receive the Bread of the Strong which alone sustains me throughout the day." (*Life of Love*, vol. II, p. 21)

"JESUS ALONE is my strength, HE ALONE is my treasure in this daily encounter, and His grace operates freely in my soul." (*Id.*, p. 539)

"I draw strength and courage from my daily Mass and Communion." (*Id.*, p. 159)

THE LOVE OF GOD

Unquestionably, Love is the greatest force governing the universe since God created everything through it.

And Marie-Paule let that Love deeply imbue her so as to make it bear fruit afterwards at every moment of her life. Here is what she wrote in this regard:

"When I think of my Love, of His omnipotence which at other times frightened me somewhat and seemed so distant, I have the impression that I am being imbued with His extraordinary power. I drink deeply of it, and in my physical weakness I sense a power that could shake the world. How sweet, how good, is Love!" (*Id.*, p. 308)

"The more we come to know the power of this Love, the more do our human aspirations dwindle and fade, and the more we are aware of the emptiness within us. Thus, there is an ever-expanding place for Him who, ALONE, is able to fill the void because He is Plenitude itself." (*Id.*, p. 99)

"Since then I have been inundated with love. How could I have stood up under so many crosses if my Love had not been there, if He were not so strong?" (*Id.*, p. 146)

At the time those lines were written (the years 1960-1970), and although Marie-Paule had already developed an extraordi-



nary capacity to love, she had not yet gone through the phase of total obliteration or begun her ascent to the other worlds. As a consequence, the source of love that sustained her came from On-High: *"I am imbued with His power", "Him who, alone, is able to fill the void", "if He were not so strong".* Thus, this power comes to her, in large part, from God who supports His creature, entirely surrendered to Him.

MARIE-PAULE'S LOVE

But as the years went by and as she was being divinized, Marie-Paule herself was becoming Love within the Quinternity and this increased tenfold her own capacity to love. So, it was that in recent years, she could write:

"I am utterly exhausted, burned out, and at the same time, I am burning with Love: this Love is the most powerful and the most natural tonic for the spiritual and physical bodies." (White Book, vol. I, p. 89)

"To love much and to suffer much, therein is salvation in the starry heavens, therein lies true happiness, for love exalts the soul and cures every ill.... Draw upon that Love, for you have suffered so much. That is all I have to give you." (Id., vol. II, pp. 110-111)

"I 'felt' my heart burst, and from it gushed floods of light, peace, joy and love that rolled over the world and extended to the confines of the earth... and washed away the perverted world." (Id., p. 102)

CONTRASTING STATES

The fact of drawing extensively from those "energy sources", at a time when her physical health was in a shambles, produced contrasting states in Marie-Paule which she described in these terms:

– *"It is amazing, these contrasts: fatigue and pain that bear me down, followed by moments when I have never felt so well."* (Life of Love, vol. VII, p. 87)

– *"I have the impression of living in two contradictory states: that of nothingness and that of power."* (Id., vol. II, p. 82)

Father Veilleux, the witness of those states at the time, wrote to her one day: *"Your health is also an enigma, a mystery."* (Id., p. 224) And he was not the only one to see things in that light. In fact, many doctors were asking themselves serious questions without, however, being able to find an answer. Marie-Paule recounted this in Life of Love.

– *"And throughout all of this, I continually experience that mysterious strength which bears me up with such force that the doctors are completely unable to understand my case."* (Id., vol. I, p. 219)

– *"In spite of all that, I feel as if I had the energy to move the earth and the sea. I would not know to what to attribute such a phenomenon if the Lord had not said to me: 'I WILL ALWAYS SUSTAIN YOU.'"* (Id., p. 272)

– *"I seem to have the strength of Samson to be able to carry these boxes alone... With my 'atomic nature', as my sisters are wont to describe it, everything is done in short order.... I feel not the slightest fatigue, just a great strength for carrying these boxes filled to their capacity."* (Id., p. 281)

– *"'Go to the hospital,' some say. 'That could be the death of you,' others comment.... So I consult Dr. Perron who cannot understand where I get my amazing energy from."* (Id., p. 287)

– *"The strength that keeps me on my feet, in spite of undernour-*

ishment, cannot be explained in human terms." (Id., p. 307)

OTHER EFFECTS OF LOVE

It would seem that this hidden power of Love did not only have the effect of giving her physical strength, but also of guarding against and curing illnesses.

An event that took place in 1959 seems to confirm this. Marie-Paule, having been urgently admitted to the hospital, recounted the following: *"On the occasion of his last visit to my room, my surgeon says to his interns: 'This lady's condition had all the ingredients of cancer. There was one chance in a thousand that it was not, and that chance was hers.'"* (Id., vol. II, p. 160)

And another doctor told her in 1987: *"Perfect results from the tests all around. There's something in you that corrects everything."* And Marie-Paule concluded: *"I must say that there is a strength in me that gives me a lift..."* (Vie d'Amour, Appendice, vol. III, p. 213)

Now, if this strength is so powerful in Mother Paul-Marie, why then is she still sick and bedridden? The answer could well be the same as the one that applied to Christ on the cross. After all the miracles He had wrought during His life, was He incapable of working another one and coming down from the cross on His own so as not to die? Of course, He could have done it, but He did not want to lead God's plan awry which was making of His death the condition for the salvation of humanity.

The same is true for Marie-Paule who no longer has any other will than God's will. And His plans for her remain quite mysterious to us...

THE EFFECTS OF LOVE ON THE THREE BODIES

Moreover, love does not only have an effect on the physical body, but also on the psychic and spiritual bodies which are closely bound to it. Marie-Paule does not express this in those terms, but the meaning of her words is clear.

"Love purifies everything, even our sudden fits of revolt which, in certain circumstances, are quite legitimate." (Letter, 2001)

"How sweet and beautiful life is when one has God within oneself; when one loves everyone and when the past with all its trials is transformed into a bed of peace upon which the soul can take its repose." (Life of Love, vol. II, p. 326)

AN ERA OF LOVE

For Marie-Paule, her daily nourishment has been Love. That Love has burned her like a flame, transformed her, divinized her, and then, from her loving heart, the Terrestrial Kingdom has germinated, and soon it will bring all the peoples together. For the millennium to come will be an era of incomparable Love in which all souls will blossom for the glory of God.

The men and women of the future will develop their "mystical sense" and, in the Kingdom, they will "experience" more and more the effects of Love mentioned above.

Marie-Paule confirmed this: *"My poor life, the course of which is known, in accordance with an order from On-High, is a pale reflection of what this next millennium will be like with its generations of families given over to God through Mary and the Holy Spirit."* (Letter, May 2005)

Then, all will live the great "Testament of Love" of the Redeemer and the Co-Redemptrix: *"Love one another."*

Sister Louise Hélie, O.F.F.M.